

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

SHIMIZU et al.

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## REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 December 16, 2003

## Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.